



Seattle Design Commission

Approved

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 2 2006

Gregory J. Nickels,
Mayor

David Spiker
Chair

Pam Beyette

Adam Christiansen

John Hoffman

Karen Kiest

Anindita Mitra

Sheri Olson

Nic Rossouw

Dennis Ryan

Darrell Vange

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Layne Cubell,
Senior Staff

Projects Reviewed

Fire Safety Levy

Annual Commission Retreat Follow Up

Tour of King Street Station (following meeting)

Commissioners Present

David Spiker, Chair

Nic Rossouw, Acting Chair

Adam Christiansen

John Hoffman

Karen Kiest

Sheri Olson

Pam Beyette

Dennis Ryan

Darrell Vange

Convened: 8:30am

Adjourned 12:45pm

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano

Layne Cubell

Tom Iurino

Valerie Felts



Department of Planning and
Development

P. O. Box 34019
700 5th Avenue, 19th Floor
Seattle, WA 98124-4019
phone 206/233-7911
fax 206/288-7883

printed on recycled paper

02 Mar 2006 Project: Fire Station Levy Program

Phase: Update
Previous Reviews: January 2004, August 2004
Presenters: Dove Alberg, Fleets and Facilities Department (FFD)
Ellen Hansen, FFD Levy Communications Officer
Attendees: Valerie Paganelli, Concerned Neighbors
of Fire Station 20
Ruri Yampolsky, Department of Arts and
Cultural Affairs
Time: 1 hour (SDC Ref. # 221/RS0609)

Action

The Design Commission appreciates the third presentation of the fire station levy planning and design process and looks forward to future updates. It recommends approval of the team's ongoing efforts with the following comments: the Commission

- appreciates its early participation in the interview process and would like to be included in shortlisting process, too
- recognizes that fire stations are part of the urban landscape; good design as well as quest for sustainability should be encouraged
- understands increased security concerns, which should be balanced with openness to the community
- supports direction of the art plan and its goals to provide public art to underrepresented parts of the city
- encourages better use of the Levy website
 - would like to see design examples of similar facilities in other cities
 - suggest post design occupancy evaluation by design firms including sustainability measures
 - could serve as link to and from Seattle Fire Department website to ensure greater public access to information
- agrees there should be flexibility in how fire stations serve the city's needs and future growth
- recommends seismic goals of levy be used to educate the community on role of fire stations in major emergencies
- encourages looking at Seattle Public Library's LFA program and its handling of the balance of programmatic needs and design for urban areas

Proponents Presentation

Proponents provided an update to the Fire Facilities Levy Program. The scope of the capital improvement project is \$197 million in levy and other funds, implemented over 9 years. The goal of the program is to bring all facilities and stations in the city up to standards that meet the demands of the 21st century. The framework of functional and operational specifications of the program was described. There are four categories in the program:

- neighborhood stations
- support facilities
- emergency preparedness
- marine fire response

The Neighborhood Fire Station Program

Designed to bring city fire stations up to code for the 21st century, the program consists of four types of projects:

- rebuild/relocate
- expand
- renovate
- seismic retrofit

New and improved stations will bring stations up to code, enable firefighters to respond and save lives in the event of a major disaster, accommodate increased demands on levels of service due to expected population growth, changing demographics, and security concerns of a post 9-11 world. Early land acquisition efforts for the projects were also outlined.

To achieve commonality among fire stations and accommodate changing demand of levels of service, twelve new stations will be built; four will undergo major remodeling; and 15 will undergo seismic/safety upgrades. Renovation/expansion of fire station 28 and seismic/safety upgrade (with minor renovation) of fire station 31 is currently underway. An art program is in place for the Levy. Fire Station 10 will be the first of seven stations to receive funds to integrate artwork into station designs. There were 19 submittals to a recent Request for Qualifications for artwork at four neighborhood stations. The Public Art Committee (PAAC) will review all artwork as projects move forward.

Support Facilities

A new fire alarm center will be housed in Fire Station 10. A new joint training facility has been built and is ready for temporary occupancy. It will provide fire, emergency and disaster response training for firefighters, the Department of Transportation, and Seattle Public Utilities.

Emergency Preparedness

A new Emergency Operations Center will also be located in Fire Station 10. From the seismically safe station, the EOC and the new fire alarm center can continue to provide emergency services during time of major disasters.

Marine Fire Response

One new large and one new small fire boat will be built. The Chief Seattle fireboat will be upgraded and relocated.



Fire Station 10

Public Questions and Comments

Valerie Paganelli, who represents *Concerned Neighbors of Fire Station 20*, expressed concern over the siting and scope of station 20, in the West Queen Anne neighborhood. It is the least used fire station in the system. The original plan called for relocation of the station. She questions why the current plan is to build a new station at the existing site, triple the size of the original station. Neighbors are concerned about possible demolition of homes.

Commissioner Questions and Comments

- Commission would like a list of projects by location and project types
- Do fire stations have a community function as in the past?
 - Although tempered in the post 9-11 world, they continue to have front office emergency services
- Is there fiscal oversight to the project?

- Levy Oversight Committee reviews the project quarterly
 - Levy Client Group reviews the project monthly
 - Annual cost review by peer group
- Will the project be modeled after LEEDs?
 - New stations will target Silver LEED standard
 - Some stations too small to seek LEED certification
- Please discuss the art program
 - OACA – working with FFD and SFD, the art program is in place
 - Beginning with fire station 10, 7 other stations around the city will receive \$70,000 to \$100,000 for art installations
- Could City be involved in selection of artists in art program?
 - Yes, approximately 19 local artists responded to the RFQ for the initial 4 stations.
- Artists should not lose sight of fire houses as community icons
- Team should consider changes to the city over the 9-year implementation period – such as worsening traffic and what that means for community response times
- Suggest the levy website make a strong connection between FFD as manager of the levy and the fire department – containing status updates of project
- Suggest the levy website also be used in a post-design sense, allowing feedback from firms at the end of the design and construction process

02 Mar 2006 Project: **Annual Commission Retreat Follow Up**

Phase: Staff Discussion
Previous Reviews: none
Presenters: Layne Cubell, Guillermo Romano, Tom Iurino,
Commission Staff

Time: 2 hours

(SDC Ref. 168)

Summary:

The Commission reviewed the draft 2006 Design Commission Workplan and draft retreat notes. It discussed staff and Commissioner roles in the review of major projects and public outreach activities, both of which will remain priorities for the Commission in the year ahead.

Major projects of 2006 and a focus on communications/public outreach were outlined. Projects discussed were:

- Viaduct/Central Waterfront Project
- Colman Dock
- King Street Station
- Westlake Hub
- Light Rail
- SR520
- Mercer Corridor
- SLU Streetcar

The Commission confirmed that big projects demanding their ongoing attention were: AK Viaduct/Seawall, Central Waterfront Plan, SR 520 and Intermodal Hubs, both Colman Dock and King Street Station. Light Rail will not likely be a priority this year as future development decisions must first come from Sound Transit's board and a public vote later this year. The Commission will continue to play a role in project review of Light Rail stations.

Public Outreach activities remain important for the Commission and help to communicate the work of the Commission and their "value added" to the City at large. Priorities this next year will be: more regular, informal meetings with Council; quarterly meetings with the Mayor's Office; web improvements; a new publication on the Commission's history; and workshops on big projects that will enable the Commission to imprint its views/perspectives on specific design issues.

02 Mar 2006 Project: Site tour of King Street Station

Phase: Staff Briefing

Time: 2 hours (SDC Ref 220/RS0606)

Following the meeting, the Commission and staff took a tour of King Street Station, guided by Ron Sheck, WSDOT Project Manager, who had briefed them on the project last summer. They were joined by staff from SDOT.